

Appl. No.: 09/720,136
Restriction Requirement dated July 14, 2003
Reply to Restriction Requirement dated June 12, 2003

REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled claims 22, 24, 27-36, 39-44 and 46-50 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants also reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications with these claims.

These claims have been cancelled to expedite prosecution. In canceling these claims, Applicants do not agree or disagree with the merits of the Restriction Requirement.

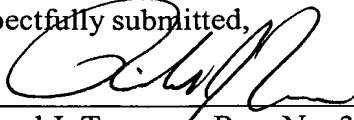
Claims 25, 26, 37 and 45 have been amended to define feed compositions that conform to the elected subject matter. This has been accomplished by changing the dependency of these claims to either claims 10 or claim 14. Claims 14-17 have been amended to clarify the feed compositions contain an additional antibiotic. These claims are linking claims which contain all of the limitations of claim 10 and define some of the subject matter of Group II.

Only claims to the elected subject matter (claims 10-18, 25, 26, 27 and 38) are now pending in this application. These claims (prior to amendment) were discussed at an interview with Examiner Weddington on June 24, 2003. These claims define an animal feed composition which comprises crude protein and a natural oil which is high in lauric acid (or a derivative thereof). The prior art teaches the use of lauric acid as an antimicrobial but when used as such, it is not shown to be within a natural oil (or a derivative thereof). The feed compositions of the pending claims are novel and unobvious over the art of record.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: UMARY-3

Date: July 14, 2003

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